

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The objections and submissions made by the Examiner in the Office Action have carefully been considered and it is submitted that distinguishing features are present in the invention and now are brought out in the amended claims.

Specification

In Item 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has required a formality amendment to the text disclosing the family tree of the present application. In response, appropriate text has been included in the introductory paragraph of the application.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner has objected to claims 1 and 3 to 5 on the basis of them being anticipated by the disclosure in Hermanson (US 5,581,284). In response, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to further emphasize the fact that the printing modules defined in the claim (see elements 46 in Fig. 9) are not different printhead bars, but sub-modules that are consecutively aligned within a single bar along the width of the printing zone.

This is substantially different from the structure disclosed by Hermanson. The Applicant draws the Examiner's attention to the fact that the print boards disclosed there are not consecutively disposed along the width of the printing zone, but represent print bars that are parallel to each other and the printing zone. The consecutively disposed modular structure of the printhead, as shown in Figure 9, is an essential feature of the present invention since it facilitates flexibility of operation and easy assembling. It is respectfully submitted that such a structure is neither discussed, nor even suggested in the cited prior art document. Accordingly, it is submitted that Claim 1 is patentable over Hermanson. Furthermore, because of their dependence on a patentable claim, the rest of the claims are also now novel and inventive.

Allowable subject Matter

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the useful comments in this section.

In light of the claim amendments and the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, the Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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